

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Bekum America Corp

Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center

Bekum America Corporation: Here And Abroad, Ahead Of The Competition

Client Profile:

Bekum is a privately held company with headquarters in Berlin, Germany and manufacturing facilities in Bodenteich (Germany), Traismauer (Austria), Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Williamston, Michigan (USA). The company manufactures a broad range of blow molding machines and complete systems used for the production of a broad range of products from the smallest toiletry bottles to 500 gallon (2000 liter) bulk containers. Bekum also serves the medical and pharmaceutical industries and is always looking for ways to improve on industry requirements. Bekum America recently celebrated its twenty-second anniversary in Williamston, Michigan, and currently employs 101 employees.

Situation:

Bekum America's Vice President of Finance first heard about the services of the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, through his association with MMTC President Mike Coast, with whom he served on a local manufacturing training organization Board of Directors. When Bekum decided to pursue ISO 9000 registration, it seemed only natural to contact the MMTC for assistance.

Solution:

Over the next 15 months, MMTC worked on-site with Bekum's internal ISO guidance team and auditors to explain, design, and complete a quality system and equip the company to maintain and perform its own audits, pointing out common snares and pitfalls. MMTC's training style proved highly adaptable for Bekum, allowing flexible class dates and extra class time as work schedules permitted. On-site assistance from MMTC helped keep Bekum on track and shortened the time span between starting work on an ISO system and achieving compliance, while providing better ways to track internal processes. Bekum received its ISO 9000 certification in early 2002, achieving compliance with its first audit.

Results:

Achieved ISO certification in February 2002 on the first audit.
Maintained current contracts with ISO certification.
Opened new customer markets by adopting a recognized quality standard.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



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"I found the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center staff technically competent and highly professional and would recommend them to others seeking similar assistance."

Mike Teeple, Quality Manager